

Did you know...



Play is the most age-appropriate way for young children to learn. In order for children to know letter sounds and rhyming words when they are older, it is important to play with words throughout the day.

Singing and playing with words will help your child begin to hear the smaller sounds in words. These *phonological awareness* skills are needed later on as children learn to read.

Introduce your child to rhyming words through books, nursery rhymes and making up nonsense words. Just have fun with words and your child's skills will keep growing.

Here's how...

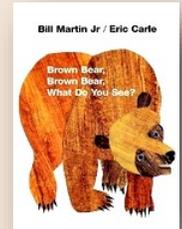


- ✦ Sing or play songs about animals while you move like them— hop like a bunny, strut like a chicken, gallop like a horse. Encourage your child to make that animal's sound as they move around.
- ✦ Use rhyming words when you give directions to your child. Example: "There's milk in your cup. Now drink it up!"
- ✦ Catch your child's attention by repeating a word they like to say. Change the first letter to make a new silly word: *Doggie becomes roggie, hoggie, soggie and so on.*
- ✦ Sing songs with your child. Traditional nursery rhymes are a great source for rhyming words and new vocabulary.

Read

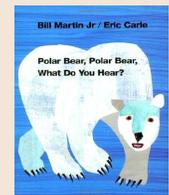
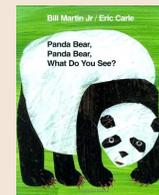
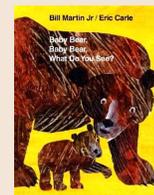


***Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr.**



This classic book helps little ones learn colors and animals, and the pattern of the text encourages young children to "read" along. It will surely become a favorite in your family!

Other books by Bill Martin, Jr.:



Choosing Books



Types of books that help your child play with words...

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

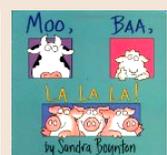
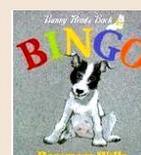
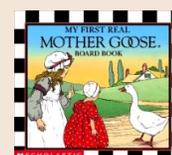
Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books

Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal noises

Books with sounds, such as "buzz," "zoom," or "pop!"



Talk



Make binoculars out of two tissue paper tubes. Glue or tape them together side by side, then let your toddler put stickers on them to decorate or use non-toxic crayons or washable markers. Punch holes in the tubes by the “eye” end and tie yarn to make a strap. As you are out for a walk or in the car, play this game: You say, “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?” Your toddler can look through the binoculars and answer, “I see a _____ (little squirrel) looking at me!”

Write



Stacking small blocks, boxes, spools of thread, etc., helps with hand-eye coordination, which is needed in order to learn to write later on.



Play



Action Rhyme for Toddlers

Red bird, red bird, high in a tree.
How many red things can you see?

(Help your child point to red things in the room.)

Blue bird, blue bird, high in a tree.

How many blue things can you see?

(Help your child point to blue things in the room.)

Continue with other colors...

Action Rhyme for Babies

(Kiss baby’s body parts.)

Kissy, kissy fingers,

Kissy, kissy toes.

Kissy, kissy baby

On your kissy, kissy nose.

I love to kiss your fingers,

I love to kiss your toes,

I love to kiss my baby,

On his/her kissy, kissy nose!



Sing



The Bear Went Over the Mountain

The bear went over the mountain,

The bear went over the mountain,

The bear went over the mountain,

To see what he could see.

The other side of the mountain,

The other side of the mountain,

The other side of the mountain,

Was all that he could see.

The other side of the mountain,

Was all that he could see!



To hear the tune of this song, visit:
www.kididdles.com/lyrics/b005.html

At your library...



Don’t have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!